

## Missile Defense Success Story, Volume 2

### **Another successful Pre-Boost Intercept System!**

*1,136 foreign missiles intercepted*

June 21, 2001

Dear Colleague:

As Congress debates ways to address potential foreign missile threats, we must remember that missile defense (as a military system) is not the only response. In fact, it is the riskiest, most expensive, and most desperate response of all. We must not let money and political capital spent on missile defense systems undermine all other methods to reduce missile threats.

It is far easier to defend against a missile that has been dismantled than against one that has been launched.

Take, for example, the success of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) in defending against hostile missiles. Negotiations on the START I Treaty began under President Reagan, and it was signed by the Bush Administration in July 1991. It limited both the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia) to 1,600 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and heavy bombers for each side. As of January 2001, **this pre-boost intercept system has eliminated 1,136 ex-Soviet strategic nuclear missiles, including 632 ICBMs and 504 SLBMs.** So far, START I has a 100% intercept rate.

There is no question that this pre-boost intercept system, the START I Treaty, has been proven to work reliably and consistently, and as advertised – something to keep in mind as we debate the efficacy of post-launch missile defenses.

Sincerely,



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



Tom Allen  
Member of Congress